



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL  
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT  
MARTA - MARCH 2021

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the Elected Members.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April

The draft Litter management Plan 2021-2023 will go on public consultation.

12<sup>th</sup> March

The statutory public consultation on the draft City & County Development Plan will conclude.

18<sup>th</sup> March @ 8.30pm

Ireland Reads Author series: Liz Nugent

23<sup>rd</sup> March

Launch of Grow It Forward Campaign

25<sup>th</sup> March @ 8.30pm

Ireland Reads Author Series: Donal Ryan

25<sup>th</sup> March

The Kilkenny County Estate Management Grant Scheme is now open.

26<sup>th</sup> March

Closing date for receipt of Graveyard Grants Scheme

29<sup>th</sup> March

Closing date for receipt of applications for The Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme

16<sup>th</sup> April

Closing date for receipt of applications for Community & Cultural/Inter Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme Grant.

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HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19 [CORONAVIRUS]  
INFLUENZA & OTHER VIRAL ILLNESS



**IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL**

Check if you have symptoms of coronavirus. These are a cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, loss of taste or smell, fever (*high temperature*).

If you do have symptoms of coronavirus, phone your GP or local Emergency Department [ED] without delay.

**Do not go to your GP or ED.** Phone them first. Tell them about your symptoms. Give them the details about your situation. Avoid contact with other people by self-isolating. If you do not have a GP, phone 112 or 999.

**IF YOU ARE FEELING WELL**

If you are feeling well, carry on with your normal routine.

Follow the advice on how to protect yourself and others from coronavirus and other infections such as flu.

Avoid spending time with people who are ill with a cough, high temperature, or breathing problems.

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus:

- avoid contact with people by self-isolating
- phone your GP or emergency department
- tell them your symptoms and the details of your situation





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THE IRISH TIMES



Visitors



Gatherings



Weddings



Indoor events



Sports fixtures



Bars, cafes & restaurants



Wet pubs



Domestic travel



Public transport

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Visitors	<b>10</b> from 3 households	<b>6</b> from 2 or 3 households	<b>1</b> other household	<b>No</b> visitors permitted	<b>No</b> visitors permitted
Gatherings	<b>50</b> outside your home or garden	<b>6</b> indoor <b>15</b> outdoor	<b>No</b> social or family gatherings	<b>No</b> indoor gatherings	<b>No</b> Except funerals or weddings
Weddings	<b>100</b> people can attend	<b>50</b> people can attend	<b>25</b> people can attend	<b>6</b> people can attend	<b>6</b> people can attend
Indoor events	<b>100</b> Up to 100 can attend indoor gatherings	<b>50</b> But up to 100 in larger venues	<b>No</b> indoor gatherings	<b>No</b> indoor gatherings	<b>No</b> indoor gatherings
Sports fixtures	<b>100</b> indoor <b>200</b> outdoor	<b>50</b> indoor <b>100</b> outdoor	<b>No</b> matches or events (except elite sport)	<b>No</b> matches or events (except elite sport)	<b>No</b> matches or events
Bars, cafes & restaurants	<b>Open</b> with protective measures in place	<b>Open</b> 6 people from up to 3 households	<b>Open.</b> Take away or delivery. Outdoor dining only. Max 15 patrons	<b>Open.</b> Take away or delivery. Outdoor dining only. Max 15 patrons	<b>Open.</b> Take away food or delivery only.
Wet pubs	<b>Open</b>	<b>Open</b> Groups of six from 3 households	<b>Open</b> Additional restrictions	<b>Open</b> outdoor only limited to a max of 15	<b>Only</b> offer takeaway or delivery service
Domestic travel	<b>No</b> restrictions	<b>No</b> restrictions	<b>Stay</b> in your county/ region apart from work/education/ essential purposes	<b>Stay</b> in your county/ region apart from work/education/ essential purposes	<b>Stay</b> at home except to exercise within 5km from home
Public transport	<b>Travel</b> off-peak hours or walk/cycle, if possible	<b>Peak hours</b> essential workers/ purposes only; 50% capacity	<b>All hours</b> essential workers/ purposes only; 50% capacity	<b>Avoid</b> public transport; essential workers/ purposes only; 25% capacity	<b>Avoid</b> public transport; essential workers/ purposes only; 25% capacity

Graphic: Paul Scott/IRISH TIMES GRAPHICS



# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

### TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

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#### CORPORATE

#### Wreath Laying Ceremony to commemorate the Friary Street Ambush

The Mayor and Cathaoirleach participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the location of the Friary Street Ambush which occurred 21st February, 1921, 100 years ago. On that day, a former Corporation Worker, Thomas Dullard, was caught in the crossfire of the ambush as he left the Friary Church after confessions.

Two local IRA Volunteers, Captain Thomas Hennessy and Michael Dermody also lost their lives during the event. Members of Thomas Dullard's family were present at the event and messages were pre-recorded by the Mayor and Cathaoirleach due to level 5 COVID-19 restrictions, which formed part of a video of the event that was aired on social media.



A short film telling the story of the historical events that took place on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1921, at Friary Street, Kilkenny, during the War of Independence has been produced by Larry Scallan, Retired Army Commandant, Military Historian and Former Manager of Kilkenny Military Barracks Museum and funded under Kilkenny County Council's Community Strand of the 2020 Decade of Centenaries Programme.

This film was officially launched by Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness at the wreath laying ceremony and is available for viewing on the Council's YouTube channel at

<https://youtu.be/5LmO6kvc7f0> and on Kilkenny Military Heritage YouTube channel.



#### Special Projects

*Abbey Quarter:* An Bord Pleanála has granted planning permission for the Urban Street and Park. A decision on grant aid under the URDF is awaited.

*Mayfair Library Project:* Expect to go to tender by the end of March with a view to commencing on site late summer, subject to Grant Aid.

#### Outdoor Performance Space

The Council are currently working on a proposal to apply for funding from the Department of Arts to create an outdoor performance space beside the Watergate Theatre. The plan will be presented to Council in the coming months. There is €250,000 available for one project per Local Authority.

#### Outdoor Dining Space

The Council are working to deliver a more permanent outdoor dining experience with the support of Fáilte Ireland.

#### Animation of Public Spaces

The Council are working on a plan to attract national funding for the animation of public spaces.

#### Lighting the Medieval Mile

The Council hopes to award the tender and appoint a contractor to light a number of strategic buildings in Kilkenny City. This work will be completed by the end of the Summer.



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## ROADS

### NATIONAL ROADS

#### Kilkenny Major Schemes

##### N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme

The project website has been launched for the scheme [N24waterford2cahir.ie](http://N24waterford2cahir.ie).

##### N25 Glenmore to Waterford Scheme

The scheme is within the concluding stage of Phase 2 - Option Selection. A preferred route corridor is expected to be announced shortly.

#### KILKENNY MINOR SCHEMES

A number of minor schemes are progressing through various stages in conjunction with TII on the national road network.

##### N24 Tower Road

Approval of the Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme was given by An Bord Pleanála on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020. It is the intention of KCC to serve "notice to treat" on landowners effected by the scheme before the end of March, 2021. This will enable progression on the land acquisition in regard to the CPO and tender documentation for the scheme.

##### N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee

Simultaneously a planning application under 177AE and a Compulsory Purchase Order application has been made to An Bord Pleanála for the above project and we are waiting on a decision.

##### N24 Carrick Road

We are currently preparing the necessary documentation to make a simultaneous application to An Bord Pleanála for approval under 177AE and also Compulsory Purchase Order approval for the scheme. It is expected that the application will be made in Q2.

### NON-NATIONAL ROADS

Kilkenny received an allocation of €16.8m for upkeep/maintenance and associated works of non-national roads for 2021. This allocation is divided out between the Municipal District Offices for consideration and approval by the Elected Members and will form part of the overall road works scheme for Kilkenny County Council in 2021.

Grant Allocations Kilkenny County Council	
Restoration Improvement	€8,328,000
Restoration Maintenance	€1,393,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€995,500
Discretionary Grant	€2,652,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	€200,000
Safety Improvement Works	€373,000
Specific Improvement Grants	€35,000
Training Grant	€66,500
Drainage Works	€652,195
PSCI: Survey Support	€25,000
Community Improvement Scheme	€639,500
Former National roads	€400,000
Active Travel	€822,500
Climate Change	€212,000
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>€16,795,195</b>

## PLANNING

### Development Management - February 2021

Planning Summary	Total to February	
	2020	2021
Planning Applications Received	72	73
Planning Applications Granted	55	54
Planning Applications Refused	5	9
Complaints Received	16	17
Warning Letters Issued	20	21
Enforcements Notices Issued	3	1
Cases Closed	19	13

The Planning Department is open for business subject to Covid-19 recommendations for social distancing and other safety measures for the protection of customers and staff. Visits to the



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Planning Office are by pre-booked appointment. Appointment can be made by telephoning the planning office at 056 7794010 or by email to [planning@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:planning@kilkennycoco.ie)

#### FORWARD PLANNING

##### City & County Development Plan:

The statutory public consultation on the draft City and County Development Plan will conclude at 5pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. Submissions can be made either directly through the Council's online portal at <https://Consult.Kilkenny.ie/> or by email to [ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie) or in writing, marked "Draft City and County Development Plan", to the Planning Department, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny R95 A39T.

Four public consultation meetings were held in February 2021, with additional meetings held with the PPN, the Older People's Forum and the Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce in February.

##### Graiguenamanagh Local Area Plan

The Chief Executive's Report on the Draft Joint Graiguenamagh/Tinnahinch Local Area plan was sent to all Council Members on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2021. The report will be discussed at the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March and at the Plenary Council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. The Carlow Chief Executive's report was attached for information. Carlow's Council Members will also consider their Chief Executive's report in March.

##### Masterplans:

In a parallel process, a number of masterplans are in progress for the areas of Loughmacask, St Canice's Campus (the former St. Canice's Hospital) and the Fairgreen area of the City. These were also impacted by Covid 19. Work is continuing with the preparation of these masterplans with Loughmacask Plan being the furthest advanced. Members will be briefed on the resolution of these before any draft masterplans are placed on public display.

##### Conservation

- Applications are currently being assessed for both Conservation Grants: **Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund**
- **Historic Towns Initiative:** Funding application for Phase 2 of the repair works to the railings of Saint Mary's Church in Callan was successful subject to restrictions. Works will progress through-out the summer.

##### Building Control

<i>Valid Commencement Notices Received to End of</i>	2021	2020
<i>February</i>	34	67
<i>Valid Part M (DAC) Applications</i>	2021	2020
<i>February</i>	6	14

##### Taking in Charge (TIC)

The following estates will be presented for approval of Stage 1 of the TIC process at the March Council meeting:

- Banager Court, Piltown
- Bellfield, Ferrybank
- Newpark Crescent, Kilkenny
- The Green, Ballyfoyle

Works are ongoing at the following estates:

- Friary Walk, Callan
- Brookfield, Ballyhale
- Haven Court, Ballyragget
- Rath Ullord, Kilkenny
- Whitescastle, Knocktopher
- Lakeside, Kilkenny
- Roseleigh, Mooncoin

All non-essential construction works are closed during current Level 5 restrictions. Therefore, the timelines in the agreed programme for Taking in Charge may be adversely impacted if restrictions are to remain in place for a longer time period.



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#### **Vacant sites**

- There are currently 32 sites on the Vacant Sites Register, two of which are under appeal to An Bord Pleanála.
- Sites that have been on the Register for over a year are now liable for the 7% levy, and invoices have now been prepared.
- The number of cancelled entries due to site activation or improvement now stands at 16 sites.

#### **PARKS**

##### **Parks & Playgrounds**

The annual playground repair programme is well under way across the county with the focus on the older playgrounds where play equipment is showing signs of wear and tear. The results of the annual independent inspections of playgrounds carried out in December gave our playgrounds a good bill of health.

It is proposed to give the Thomastown playground a facelift and create links to the new amenity area being developed by the community immediately adjacent to the playground to the rear of the community centre. The Thomastown playground is located in a floodplain. As a result, the safety surfacing needs constant upkeep.

Subject to cost estimates it is anticipated that new surfacing will be placed in the Thomastown playground to improve ground conditions which will be better able to withstand the occasional flooding which occurs from the nearby River Nore.



Works will commence on Piltown playground as soon as the Covid restrictions permit. The site located to the rear of the old Garda Station, on the Main Street, is an attractive riverside location. The playground will be developed by the local community with assistance from the Parks Department and funding from the Community and Cultural Capital Facilities Scheme. Included in the proposal is a sensory garden which will be of great interest to those with sensory processing issues such as autism but also be an attractive place to sit and enjoy the space beside the river.

##### **South East Greenway**

The rail and sleeper lifting works have now been completed. Final site clearance works will recommence when current Level 5 restrictions are lifted. The detailed design for the main construction works along the route of the Greenway is continuing. The main construction of the 24km Greenway is being awarded in a number of Lots. The first 3 Lots have been tendered and will be awarded shortly. However, these works are prohibited under current Level 5 restrictions.

Further contracts will be awarded as the detailed design is finalised and the landowner accommodation works are agreed in each Lot. There will be a number of planning applications progressed in the coming weeks for: an access ramp down on to Greenway from Abbey Road railway bridge; temporary construction compounds for construction and construction of a Greenway car park in Ferrybank. The public engagement process for the selection of a suitable site for the proposed Ferrybank Car Park has now concluded. While there is still further investigative work to be undertaken on the preferred site for the Ferrybank Car Park, it represents an excellent solution, especially given its proximity to the proposed new Link Road from the Belmont Road to the Abbey Road.

An initial meeting took place between Executives of the 3 local authorities and Executives from



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CIE/Irish Rail last week to discuss commencement of the formal transfer of the former railway lands under Section 21 of the Transport Act.

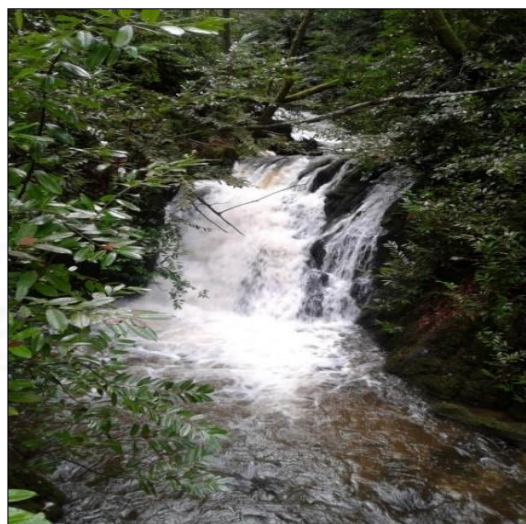
Following a competitive process, consultants have been appointed to bring forward options for links from the Greenway to the villages of Slieverue and Glenmore. They have carried out a preliminary assessment of options and will arrange a public consultation to discuss these options with locals when they have been further investigated. A Business Development Executive will also be employed shortly to help local people, businesses and communities to develop business opportunities along the Greenway.



December 2020 - View of old railway track through the Ferrybank urban area

### Woodstock Estate

Woodstock Estate has once again been successful in securing €200,000 in funding through the ORIS scheme (*Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme*). This funding will be used to continue the development of the very successful Loop walks to the Waterfall in the south east of the estate with connections back to the gardens via 'The American Road'. The waterfall is currently a unknown feature due to its isolation in the estate and poor connectivity back to the village and the gardens. This funding will assist in opening up access and increasing the length of the loop walks within the estate.



Waterfall at the Brownsford Stream, Woodstock Estate

The Winter Garden below was the setting for some of the recent 'Jerusalema' challenge. The Gardai across Ireland took part in it to boost morale during these difficult restrictions.



Works to improve the formal Winter Garden are ongoing (*above*). The two panels of the formal garden furthest from the house have been temporarily seeded with a pollinator friendly wildflower meadow. In time, these will also be formally planted to the original layout of the Victorian period.

### Sports Capital & Equipment Programme 2021

The following applications for funding were submitted under the Sports Capital & Equipment Programme 2021:-

- Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park - adding to the existing facility by installing an all-weather multi-use games area.





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- Dunmore Biodiversity & Recreation Countryside Park – Provision of individual gym equipment and small hurling wall
- Newpark Multi-use Games Area – refurbishment works.

#### Amenity Grants

The Amenity Grant Scheme has been recently advertised and the closing date for receipt of applications is 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The main objective of the scheme is to encourage and aid small-scale works to improve the local environment and encourage community involvement in the upkeep and maintenance of public amenities. In 2021 there will be an increased focus on supporting pollinators through projects which are funded. Community groups will be encouraged to manage amenities in a more sustainable manner in line with the pollinator plan which the Council has adopted and in line with actions set out in the Council's Climate Action Policy.

#### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

*We are delighted the following projects received grant assistance under Measure 2 of the ORIS:*

- Woodstock Loop Walks (as mentioned above) to create a connection to the Brownsford stream waterfall and return via the high road to Woodstock gardens via woodland walks – Grant awarded €200,000.
- The Moat Field in Callan – continuation of the newly created loop walk around the Moat Field into the second field at Westcourt and linking to Westcourt Demesne, a historic estate with Walled Garden and some very significant mature trees – Grant awarded €193,500

Design works have commenced on the following Measure 1 projects which received funding in February:

- Freshford Loop Walk – further trail improvements
- Cois Bearbha, Goresbridge - Riverside Walk

- Woodstock communications and marketing
- Nore Valley Walk signage upgrade
- Brandon Hill Walk Upgrades
- Kilmacolliver Loop walk surface upgrades
- Gathabawn Loop Walk signage, stiles and drainage.

A decision regarding funding is still awaited on our Measure 3 ORIS Application towards the Phase 1 development of the Kilkenny Biodiversity & Recreational Countryside Park at the former landfill site in Dunmore. It is anticipated that the Department will make an announcement on same before the end of March.

#### ENVIRONMENT

##### Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan

The 2020 RMCEI Statistical Return was prepared and submitted to the EPA on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Despite the impact of Covid 19 and the restrictions put in place throughout the year, 90% of the planned inspections were completed. In conjunction with the submission of the Return, the 2021 RMCEI Plan was prepared and submitted to the EPA. Similar to last year's Plan, the 2021 Plan will include for c4,160 planned inspections across Waste, Water, Noise and Air. The Environment staff will again endeavour to carry out as many inspections as possible whilst adhering to Government and HSE guidelines.

##### Horse Bye Laws

Kilkenny County Council advertised its intention to make revised Bye Laws for the Control of Horses in the County of Kilkenny and to make provision for the Control, Welfare and Licensing of Horses. These new Bye Laws will also incorporate horse exclusion zones, consisting of 26 streets and laneways, within Kilkenny City. Three submissions were received and one amendment was made to the Draft Bye Laws on foot of the submissions. The Draft Bye Laws are due to go before the March Council Meeting for consideration.



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## Biodiversity & Recreational Countryside Park at Dunmore

Significant project milestones have been achieved to bring this proposal closer to a reality. Following on from the public consultation which closed on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 17no. submissions were received and assessed, and a planning report which will go before the Elected Members at the March meeting for consideration and approval.



## Graveyard Grants

The Graveyard Grants Scheme has been recently advertised and the closing date for receipt of applications is 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The grant contributes towards the cost of:

- Graveyard maintenance, including appropriate works to help pollinators
- Graveyard recording schemes
- Heritage studies of graveyards

## Kilkenny Quiet Areas

Under the current Noise Action Plan 2019-2023, the identification of Quiet Areas is an action to be implemented. At present, Kilkenny County Council has identified 2 potential areas, a section of the Woodland Walk in Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum and a section of the River Nore Linear Park Walk in Bishops Meadows. Currently these areas have been drafted into the revised City and County Development Plans. These Plans are currently out for public consultation until 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## Litter Management Plan 2021-2023

The draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023 has been circulated to Elected Representatives and went on public consultation from the 8<sup>th</sup> of March until the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2021. Your input into this important policy document is appreciated, as it sets out priorities and targets for litter management over the next three years. Statutory and non-statutory organisations will be notified. Community based organisations such as the PPN & Tidy Towns Groups will also be encouraged to participate in the public consultation process. Submissions can be made in writing or via [www.consult.kilkenny.ie](http://www.consult.kilkenny.ie).



## Dog Fouling Campaign

Kilkenny, Carlow Wexford and Waterford City and County Councils will be launching a new dog fouling campaign in March. This collective collaboration has pooled financial resources to structure a year long campaign with five main themes. While awareness is important, a number of new initiatives are proposed in the draft Litter Management Plan which will compliment this new campaign to nurture community engagement. The campaign aim is to push the responsibility onto the dog walker and make it socially unacceptable to walk away without cleaning up after your dog.



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### Historic Landfill Sites

There are 14 Historic Landfill Sites (or closed landfills) in County Kilkenny formerly used by the Council for the disposal of waste. Local Authorities are required to carry out an assessment of the risk of environmental pollution on historic landfills according to a Code of Practice issued by the EPA. This involves a framework of assessments ranging from Tier 1 through to Tier 3, with a subsequent application to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) for each location. Local Authorities are also required to remediate Historic Landfills if required in accordance with the above-mentioned assessments and EPA approved CoA. The Department currently fully fund all work up to and including remediation works at historic landfills. See Table below:

No.	Site Name	2021 Target	Status - March 2021	Funding 2021
				Funding Request 2021
S22-02572	Gowran	Submit Validation Report to EPA & Ongoing Monitoring.	CoA & Remediation Works Contract concluded.	€0
S22-02589	Sherman's Donaghmore Ballyragget	Satisfactory conclusion of the defects period & submit validation Report to EPA. Ongoing monitoring.	CoA & Remediation Works Contract currently in the defects period.	€50,000
S22-02580	Oldcourt Inistioge	Obtain CoA.	CoA application to be submitted to the EPA Q1	€0
KKTAL01	Talbotsinch Freshford Road Kilkenny	Engage with EPA to conclude & agree matters, including Risk Assessment, Certification / Licencing route in the context of the current Section 63 Notice.	Additional monitoring round January 2021. Final Tier 2 & 3 Reports to be completed February 2021.	€4,105
S22-02584	Thorpe's Ballyragget	Obtain CoA.	CoA application to be submitted to the EPA in Q1 2021.	€0
S22-02595	Seven Houses Newlands	Obtain CoA.	Awaiting Tier 3 Report. CoA application to be submitted to the EPA February 2021.	€0
S22-02582	Skehana Castlecomer	Obtain CoA.	Awaiting Tier 3 Report. CoA application to be submitted to the EPA February 2021.	€0
S22-02590	Ardreagh Urlingford	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & obtain CoA.	Tier 2 Report now due February 2021.	€14,750
S22-02591	Caherlesk Dunnamaggin	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & obtain CoA.	Tier 2 Report due January 2021.	€14,000
S22-02597	Ballykeaghan Kilmacow	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & obtain CoA.	Tier 2 Report now due February 2021.	€11,900
S22-02592	Sheastown	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & obtain CoA.	Consultant procured Tier 2 January 2021.	€45,650
S22-02597	Mallardstown	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & obtain CoA.	Consultant procured Tier 2 January 2021.	€31,250
S22-02594	Granny	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & obtain CoA.	Tier 2 Report due February 2021.	€16,500
S22-02578	Dungarvan	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & obtain CoA.	Site Investigation Report due February 2021. To be used for Tier 2 Report.	€18,500
<b>TOTAL &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>				<b>€206,655</b>



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### National Spring Clean

An Taisce is accepting registrations for the National Spring Clean from individuals and family units who wish to litter pick within their 5km area. Registrations can be completed online via [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org). There are over 70 registrations logged for Kilkenny to date and Kilkenny County Council will assist those registered by arranging collections of bags of litter and providing additional litter picking supplies when requested. Volunteers are asked to bring the bags back to their property to await collection

### Online Community Courses in Collaboration with The Heritage Office

The Heritage Office is collaborating with the Environment Section to deliver two online courses in March. The first course "Sustainable Gardening" was primarily aimed at Tidy Town groups and will be especially beneficial to groups who would like to strengthen the Sustainability "Doing Less with More" competition category as well as the Nature and Biodiversity in your Local Area category. Topics covered include: reducing your waste, planting for pollinators and providing alternative to chemicals. This course runs for 5 weeks starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March and is fully booked.

The second course will be advertised later in the month "Growing Together". This online course will be a step-by-step guide to growing a sustainable vegetable garden, planting for biodiversity, growing from seed, pricking out seedlings, taking cuttings and much, much more. Both courses fall under initiatives the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, the Council's Waste Prevention Programme and Kilkenny's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.



### St. Patrick's Festival Kilkenny

The Environment Section is delighted to assist in the preparations of the St Patricks Festival which carries a strong environmental theme this year. A collaboration with the Arts Office has produced a "make and do" film encouraging everyone to make some Irish dancer finger puppets with help from the contents of the recycling bin. A composting video was commissioned to encourage activity and a composting "how to" video has been produced also by Composting Ireland.

### LAWPRO Update - River Basin Management Planning

The River Basin Management Plan (2018-2021) has identified waterbodies for focused action to improve water quality. These are within the **Priority Areas for Action (PAA)** listed in Appendix 2 of the Plan. This is part of a collaborative approach which engages all stakeholders, particularly at a local level. The process involves scientific assessment of existing information followed by stream walks in the catchment to better understand the issues and develop locally appropriate solutions. Nationally there are 190 priority areas for action covering 726 water bodies.

For 2021 LAWPRO's work in Kilkenny will be focusing on the Breagagh, Pockocke, Lingaun and Erkina Catchments, carrying out assessments on the rivers to identify water quality issues and ways to remedy them. They will be engaging with the local communities and all relevant stakeholders to find solutions. (Note that only a small part of the Erkina and Lingaun areas are in Kilkenny). The LAWPRO team works closely in the priority areas with sustainability advisors from Teagasc and the dairy industry who provide free advice to farmers on water quality protection measures.

During the lockdown period in 2020, LAWPRO (in partnership with The Heritage Council, the Heritage Officers Programme, IFI and Waterways



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Ireland) organised a story writing competition with the theme of "Stories from the Waterside". The huge public response to the competition and the wide range of story themes illustrate how important water is and how we all connect with it at various levels. The competition winners have been published in a book and all stories are now available on a new website which was launched in February 2021.

[www.storiesfromthewaterside.ie](http://www.storiesfromthewaterside.ie)

To celebrate World Water Day 2021, LAWPRO and our partners (Limerick City & Co. Council, Mary Immaculate College, Maigue Rivers Trust and The Rivers Trust) are organising a two-day conference on March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> on the theme of Reimagining Irish Rivers: Working with Nature. Further details are available from the LAWPRO website.

The DHLGH, EPA and LAWPRO continue work on the preparation of the River Basin Management Plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle which will run from 2022 to 2027. The draft Plan is expected to be published in early 2021 and will be followed by a statutory 6-month public consultation period. This will be led by LAWPRO at regional and local level.

**Useful Links:**

[www.watersandcommunities.ie](http://www.watersandcommunities.ie)

[www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)

[www.storiesfromthewaterside.ie](http://www.storiesfromthewaterside.ie)

<https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/river-basin-management-plans/river-basin-management-plan-2018-2021>

**Decarbonising Zone Definition:**

Kilkenny County Council, along with every other local authority in the country, is being asked to identify a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) by 30<sup>th</sup> April next. A DZ is defined as an area: "identified by local auth in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets." Following designation of the DZ, an

implementation plan has to be prepared by year end outlining the projects that the Council proposes to deliver to reduce CO2 emissions within the DZ. The projects are to include the full spectrum of climate action from electricity sourcing and modal transport shift through to enhanced building energy efficiency and carbon sequestration. The Programme for Government has set an extremely ambitious target of 7% per annum reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions, including CO2 by 2030. The issue of the DZ for Kilkenny was discussed briefly by the elected members at recent SPC Meetings. A recommendation on the DZ for Kilkenny will be made to the elected members at the April Council Meeting.

**Casual Trading Bye-Laws Review**

There has been a sharp increase in enquiries and demand for spaces under the Casual Trading Bye-Laws. A commitment has been given in the Service Delivery Plan for 2021 to carry out a review of the casual trading bye-laws.

**COMMUNITY**

**Keep Well Campaign**

The following actions commenced/continue:

- Light Hearted Radio show on KCLR for older adults, 'The Tonic', continues every Thursday from 6-7pm (January 14<sup>th</sup> April 1<sup>st</sup>).
- 'My Home Place': A weekly radio slot dedicated to local history, heritage and culture.
- Dial-A-Story: this initiative is led by the Libraries in Kilkenny. This is a free phone number (1800 300 309) and you have a choice of ten stories to listen to. These stories are from local story writers in Kilkenny
- Road Signage displayed reflecting the key themes and local activities for the campaign in towns and villages: Clogh, Piltown, Ferrybank, Danesfort, Thomastown, Kilkenny, Urlingford & Freshford



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- Healthy Kilkenny and Healthy Carlow 6-week radio schedule of interviews (KCLR Live/The Way It Is) continues on KCLR.
- Under Eating Well a cooking demonstration, distribution of ingredients, recipe book, HI masks are being circulated to older people via library service

### Grants

The new Kilkenny County Council Community Grants Booklet is now available online. This year, in addition to the printed version, we have created an online interactive version of the booklet which works on PCs, Phones, and Tablets. This online version makes it easier to see what grants are available, and allows you to download the relevant grant application forms very easily - 'at the touch of a button'. The booklet contains information on all types of community grants that are available, including grant amounts, contact details, and application forms.

<https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Community/Culture/Grants/One-Stop-Shop-for-Grants.html>

Grants Booklet Promotional Video; A New Grants Booklet promotional video has been launched which is being promoted on Social Media. This promotional video is a step by step guide informing the public on how to access the online grants information.

### Estate Management

The Kilkenny County Estate Management Grant Scheme is now open. The closing date is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. You can now also apply online for the Estate Management Grant. Click on the link below to access the NEW online application form.

<https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Housing/Estate-Management-Community-Liaison-/Estate-Management-Grant-Online-Application-Form.html>

*Community & Cultural/Inter Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme Grant* scheme is now open. This scheme is to respond to the need for better community, recreational and cultural facilities for community groups through the provision of a capital grant. Closing date for receipt of applications is 12 noon on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

Queries can be emailed to [community@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:community@kilkennycoco.ie) or phone 056-7794931.

### HERITAGE

#### Kilkenny Decade of Centenaries Grant Scheme

Applications are invited from heritage societies, local historians, communities and artists who wish to commemorate events which happened in County Kilkenny in 1921. Projects which address all aspects of this period are encouraged, e.g. military, political, social, economic and cultural legacies, and also projects by artists and creatives which interpret and respond creatively to this period in Kilkenny. Closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 5pm.

<https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Community/Culture/Grants/Decade-of-Centenaries-Grant-Scheme-2021.html>

#### Kilkenny Creative Ireland & Cruinniú na nÓg Grant Scheme 2021

Kilkenny County Council Creative Ireland & Cruinniú na nÓg Grant Scheme 2021 is open for applications. This grant scheme aims to provide financial support to community groups and individuals, artistic and creative practitioners, event organisers and those involved in creative, cultural and heritage activities, to encourage cultural participation throughout Kilkenny. The closing date for completed applications is 5pm 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/2021/02/creative-ireland-cruinni-na-nog-grant-scheme-2021/>

#### Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021

The Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2021 is now open for applications. It's open to voluntary and community groups, heritage-related NGO's and not-for-profit heritage organisations. Closing date: 5pm Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Online application details and scheme guidelines available at <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2021>



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#### Sports Clubs Supporting Pollinators

The Heritage Office is currently posting out new "Pollinator-friendly management of Sports Clubs" brochures to sports clubs in the county. The brochure, produced by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, provides simple tips to help make clubs more pollinator friendly. See <https://pollinators.ie/new-guidelines-published-to-help-sports-clubs-become-more-biodiversity-friendly/> If you are involved with a sports club and would like copies please email us at [heritage@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:heritage@kilkennycoco.ie)

#### Make Your Own Bird, Bat And Barn Owl Boxes

Birdwatch Ireland, with co-funding from the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network, have produced three new "How to Guides to make boxes for garden birds, bats and barn owls". To download a copy go to <https://birdwatchireland.ie/irelands-birds-birdwatch-ireland/nestbox-designs-for-birds-and-wildlife/> If you would like to receive hard copies of these helpful leaflets please email us at [heritage@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:heritage@kilkennycoco.ie)

#### GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme

This grant scheme, administered by the Heritage Council, is open to farms who participate in the GLAS scheme. It funds the conservation of traditional farm buildings of significant heritage value which are in agriculture use. Closing date is 5<sup>th</sup> April. For details contact the Heritage Council <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/traditional-farm-buildings-grant-scheme>

#### LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

##### Local Enterprise Week

Local Enterprise Week took place from 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> March under the theme of 'Making It Happen'. A number of events took place across with the week including 'Looking to the Future', 'Growing Lean', 'AgriTech Revolution in Farming and Food', 'Trading Online Vouchers' and a range of one-to-one mentoring clinics covering various topics currently of interest to local businesses.



An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar T.D. officially launched a new 'Green for Micro' programme to encourage businesses to look at introducing green practices into their business. The new programme will allow Kilkenny based micro enterprises from any sector to access up to two days specialist consultancy to examine their operations for green efficiencies, and to advise them on the sustainability of their businesses. For further information, contact our office at (056) 7752662 or email [info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie).

#### BREXIT



Brexit continues to impact on local businesses and in particular in relation to Customs. Twenty eight businesses availed of one-to-one mentoring in relation to issues that arose for their businesses due to Brexit since the start of the year. Eighteen businesses participated on 'Prepare your Business for Customs' training which took place throughout January & February, and provides participants with a clear understanding of the Customs paperwork arising from Brexit. Should you be aware of businesses who require advice or support in relation to Brexit, please ask them to contact the Local Enterprise Office at (056) 7752662 or email [info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie).



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### **Financial Assistance Approvals 2021**

Financial assistance for micro enterprises in the manufacturing and internationally traded service sector is available through the Local Enterprise Office.

- €107,000 in direct financial assistance was approved for 5 businesses in 2021, linked to the projected creation of 36 jobs over the next three years.
- €44,500 in Business Expansion Grants was awarded to 2 businesses, with forecasted job creation of 7 jobs. Business Expansion Grants assist businesses trading greater than 18 months, to make investment in growing their businesses and employment numbers.
- €45,000 in Priming Grants was awarded to 2 start-up businesses with forecasted job creation of 29 jobs. Priming Grants assist businesses with start-up investment costs.
- €15,000 was awarded in Feasibility Study Grants to assist with the assessment of the business model.
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporter Grant totalling €2,500 was awarded which supports businesses to explore and develop their export market opportunities.
- Three businesses have commenced projects on the 'Lean for Micro' programme in order to assist them to review their processes, to become more competitive and innovative.
- Three businesses have transferred from the Local Enterprise Office Portfolio to Enterprise Ireland since the start of the year. These businesses were supported in the initial stages by the Local Enterprise Office and have grown substantially to allow them to transfer to the next stage of their development. Enterprise Ireland will support these businesses in the development of their export markets.

### **EVOLVE - Small Business Management Development Programme**

'Evolve' commenced during Enterprise Week. This programme will run over 12 weeks and is targeted at owner/managers of small businesses, who have a strong commitment to maintaining their businesses in a challenging economic trading environment. This programme is our most comprehensive offering to small businesses who have an ambition to grow and create more jobs in Kilkenny. The programme combines management theory, peer learning, networking and action learning approaches and participants will develop a strategy for their businesses in a difficult trading environment.

### **Spring Training Programme**

The Local Enterprise Office Spring Training programme is continuing online, providing a range of training programmes from Start Your Own Businesses to Digital Marketing. To-date, 104 businesses have participated on training provided. Details of our training programme are available on <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kilkenny/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>. These programmes are fully subsidised and are available for all businesses throughout the County.

### **Trading Online Voucher Scheme**

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme continues to be available to micro enterprises (i.e. those with 10 employees or less) throughout the County, whereby a qualifying business may apply for matched funding to a maximum value of €2,500 or 50% of eligible expenditure (exclusive of VAT), whichever is the lesser to develop an online trading presence i.e. ecommerce shop/online payments system via their website.

We continue to hold one-to-one information sessions and if you are aware of businesses who wish to avail of same, please contact our office to schedule an appointment at 056-7752662 or email [info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie). The business has to be trading for a minimum of 6 months to qualify.





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Fifty four businesses have been approved funding totalling €126,515 under Trading Online Voucher Scheme since January.

### Client Profile Of The Month



Motoklik, founded by Graiguenamanagh based entrepreneur Jens Kopke, has developed a mobile App that provides information on the best set up suspension for motorcycle racing conditions with regard to performance and safety. Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny recipient of 2019 Best Start-Up Category in Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur, Motoklik secured over €300,000 in seed funding in 2020 from investors, including the South East Business Angel Network (HBAN), Enterprise Ireland, European Space Agency BIC. The investment will support the creation of 10 high value jobs in Kilkenny. For more information visit <https://www.motoklik.com/>

## HOUSING

### Housing Capital Delivery 2021

The capital schemes programmed for delivery in 2021 are outlined in the table below:

Project Name	Number of Units	Project Status
<b>AHB CALF Turnkey</b>		
Cois Na Bearu, Graignamanagh [Cooperative Housing]	14	Completed
Margaret's Field, Callan Road, Kilkenny City [Respond]	40	Completed
Nuncio Road Phase 3	22	Site Closed due to

		Level 5 restrictions
<b>SHIP CONSTRUCTION</b>		
Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer	33	Onsite
Station Road, Ballyragget	22	Onsite
Pairc Nua [The Broguemaker], Kilkenny	18	Onsite
New Road & Chapel St, Mooncoin	6	Liaising with Receiver
Ayrfield, Kilkenny City	8	Onsite
Blackwater Grove, Lower Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny	16	Onsite
Pennefeather Court Hebron Road Site 2, Kilkenny City	8	Site Closed due to Level 5 restrictions
<b>CAS CONSTRUCTION</b>		
Grennan Villa, Thomastown [Camphill Communities]	5	Onsite



Construction Works at Pairc Nua [Broguemaker], Castlecomer Road



Construction Works at Station Avenue, Ballyragget



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**Other Units 'Under Construction' at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - 83 units**

- 58 units at Pennefeather Green, Hebron Road, Kilkenny (Turnkey)
- 2 Units at Shanganny, Jenkinstown (KCC Direct Build)
- 23 Units at New Orchard, Kilkenny City [AHB Calf Turnkey - Cluid]
- Note that these 3 sites are currently closed under Level 5 restrictions

**Kilkenny County Council Turnkey Projects due to start (subject to restrictions)**

- 17 Units at Limegrove, Belmont, Ferrybank
- 4 Units at Main Street, Piltown

**Pre Tender Stage [127 units]**

- 88 units (*houses/apartments*) and community facility at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road, Kilkenny (*KCC direct build*)
- 6 units at Golf Links Road (*Mulhalls Shop*) Kilkenny (*KCC direct build*)
- 25 Units at Ladywell, Thomastown (*KCC direct build*)
- 2 Units at Inchacarron, Mullinavat (*KCC direct build*)
- 2 Units at Old Fire Station, Graignamanagh (*KCC direct build*)
- 1 Accessible bungalow, Circular Road, Kilkenny (*KCC direct build*)
- 1 Accessible bungalow, Haggardsgreen, Callan (*KCC direct build*)
- Reconfiguration of 1 apt to 2 units- Ayrfield, Granges Road

Homeless Services Summary 2021	January	February
Homeless Presentations	18	34
Homeless Assessment Outcomes		
Prevention & Interventions	9	13
Emergency Service	5	4
Not eligible / Did not avail of service	4	17
<b>HAP Placefinder Service</b>		
No of tenancies @ 01.02.2020	70	73
No of tenancies created during the month	3	5

No of tenancies in place @ 28 <sup>th</sup> February	73	78
Number of tenancy breakdowns	0	0

**As at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

- 2 households in Emergency Homeless Hotel accommodation (*2 families*)
- 4 households in Transition Emergency Accommodation (*0 families*)

**Social Housing Support Application Summary**

Number awaiting Social Housing Support at February 28 <sup>th</sup> (Gross Need)	1,930
No. of Social Housing Applications received in February	75
No. of applications incomplete / awaiting further information / clarification	33
No. of applications validated and ready for assessment during the month	42
No. of applications assessed during February	73
No. of applications awaiting assessment as at February 28 <sup>th</sup>	44

**Housing Assistance Payment Summary:**

Number of active HAP tenancies at 28 <sup>th</sup> February	853
New HAP tenancies set up	38
HAP tenants allocated Social Housing	21
Closed HAP Tenancies	8
HAP Rent Reviews	42
Other tenancy amendments	152
HAP Calls Received	597

**February Monthly Statistics**

LA/RAS/Leasing allocations up to end of February (offers made):	20
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	4
Tenant Liaison Officer cases in February:	29
Maintenance Calls for February:	468
Maintenance Calls year to date	990



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<b>Housing Loan Activity</b>			
	<i>Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan</i>	<i>Reconstruction Loan</i>	<i>Caravan Loan</i>
<i>Received</i>	9	0	0
<i>Approved</i>	2	0	2
<i>Amount Approved</i>	€266,518	0	0
<i>No. Paid</i>	2	0	0
<i>Amount Paid</i>	€379,000	0	0

### Incremental Purchase Scheme

The Housing Section is delighted to report that Kilkenny County Council's first sale of an affordable property under the Incremental Purchase Scheme concluded in February. The purchase of this property was funded with the approval of a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan with the keys being handed over to the successful applicants at the end of February.

### Private Grants

Kilkenny County Council approved a budget of €1.5m for all three private grants (HOP/MAG/HGD). The Council recoups 80% of all eligible expenditure from the Department. The position at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 is as follows:

### Grants Approved & Committed up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	45	€486,018
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	17	€75,912
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	82	€518,692
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>€1,080,622</b>

### Grants Paid out up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Scheme	No.	Amount
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	14	€110,261
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	7	€27,381
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	17	€128,108
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>€265,750</b>

### TOURISM

Kilkennys' Tourism Team continues in its efforts to support the tourism and hospitality sector during the current Level 5 lockdown. During this extraordinary time for the sector work continues to support and to provide assistance to the community through Kilkenny County Councils Festival Grants Scheme. Applications have been prepared for the Council's March meeting for approval.



Plans for developing County Welcome Signage for our visitors are also in train. An application is currently being prepared for submission under the Town and Village funding stream to make wayfinding in our scheduled towns a more enjoyable experience for visitors to our County when they are able to return.

Work also continues to develop and deliver additional tourism attractions for the County for when the County can safely welcome visitors again. Projects include the Kilkenny Greenway in the South of the County, the delivery of the Kilkenny Medieval Experience at the Tholsel in the City and the introduction of our Kilkenny Catwalk, a tourism and art trail for 2021.



*Stay tuned for further updates ... ..*



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### Kilkenny Tourism & Visitkilkenny.ie

Kilkenny Tourism continues its work in preparing Kilkenny's marketing and promotional plans for 2021. Springs 2021 campaign continues to keep Kilkenny to the forefront of the domestic visitors' mind for when they are able to travel again. By showcasing Kilkenny's wonderful outdoor activity offering alongside all that the city and county has to offer for families, we are aiming for Kilkenny to be top of the visitors "must see" destination for their 2021 staycation. Check out [www.visitkilkenny.ie](http://www.visitkilkenny.ie) for further details and up to date blogs.

### Failte Ireland Marketing Alignment Workshop

Failte Ireland hosted their Marketing Alignment Workshop for 2021 on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

The aim of the workshop was to find new and improved ways to work together in 2021 to:

- Increase alignment with campaigns at national and county level
- Ensure effective messaging for consumers
- Achieve optimised online presence in the marketplace for 2021.

The Workshop included:

- The very latest insights on Consumer sentiment and how we can interpret and use these at national and county level.
- Update from Fáilte Ireland's Marketing and Digital teams on marketing campaign plans and timelines.
- Facilitated discussion on alignment actions for 2021 to make the most of these campaigns.
- Kilkenny County Council in partnership with Kilkenny Tourism will continue to work closely with Failte Ireland to closely align our "More to Explore" local campaign with the national domestic "Keep Discovering" campaign going forward in 2021.

## FIRE SERVICES

### Fire Safety Certificates

6 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received to-date in 2021.

### Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003

- 6 Licence Applications were processed under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 & 2003.
- 1 Fire Safety Notice was served on a premises.

### Community Fire Safety

Home Fire Safety visits have been postponed due to level -5 Lockdown.

### Fire Brigade Operations

Brigades have now returned to drill night training. This is reviewed on an ongoing basis during Covid-19.

A 3 week initial fire-fighting skills course was safely and successfully run from 8<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. All Covid-19 safety measures in line with the Risk Assessments were in place. 6 new recruit Fire Fighters from Kilkenny together with students from Waterford, Tipperary, Clare and Wexford took part in this Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 6 course in Castlecomer Fire Station. The QQI accredited initial training programmes for new firefighters have been developed by the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) in collaboration with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM).



Cllr John Brennan, Chairperson SPC addressing Recruits in Castlecomer.



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Ladder & Pump Relay Practice

The Brigades have attended a variety of incidents in the first quarter of 2021. These incidents included an apartment fire, a number of road traffic collisions, a tractor on fire, chimney fires, an Ambulance assist with a Covid-19 patient, trees down and also assisted An Garda Síochána at the scenes of a fatality.

## ARTS

### Literature

Our Spring literature online course titled The Short Story with writer and tutor, Emmaleene Leahy, commenced on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

### Creative Writing Bursary - Word for Thought

As part of our annual programme the Arts Office focusses on engaging with and encouraging young people and children to create, experience and participate in the arts.

Our new bursary to support secondary schools in providing creative writing opportunities for their students has been very successful and six secondary schools were granted bursaries to provide creative writing workshops for their students. Over the next few months nearly 500 students will attend these online workshops.

### Creative Ireland

We are working with Creative Ireland and RTE to host an outdoor exhibition of the young Kilkenny

Artists works under the National "This is Art" Project.

### Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet - 21<sup>st</sup> edition

The callout for submissions to the 2021 Poetry Broadsheet has gone out and a poetry fully booked workshop with this year's editor, Jessica Traynor, will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Closing date for Broadsheet submissions is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Jessica is poet, dramaturg, librettist and creative writing teacher.

### New Poems on the Poetry Phone

Kilkenny County Council Arts Office's Free Poetry Phone is back with a wonderful new collection of poems selected by Deirdre Southey from the Arts Office. Everyone can listen to the ten wonderful poems written by Kilkenny poets by picking up the phone and dialling 1800 272 994 and then select a number from 0 to 9. These poems have also been published in our Poetry Broadsheets over the years.

### Artlinks Bursaries 2021

Our ArtLinks Bursaries 2021, a partnership with Carlow, Waterford and Wexford have been publicised and we are currently accepting applications for the Professional and Emerging ArtLinks Bursary Awards 2021. Closing date for same is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### Creative Ireland Projects

Planning and development is underway for our various Creative Ireland projects including Bookville Festival, Knitted Together 2, the Arts Show in partnership with KCLR and the Four Rivers theatre project.

### Partnership with Visual Artists Ireland

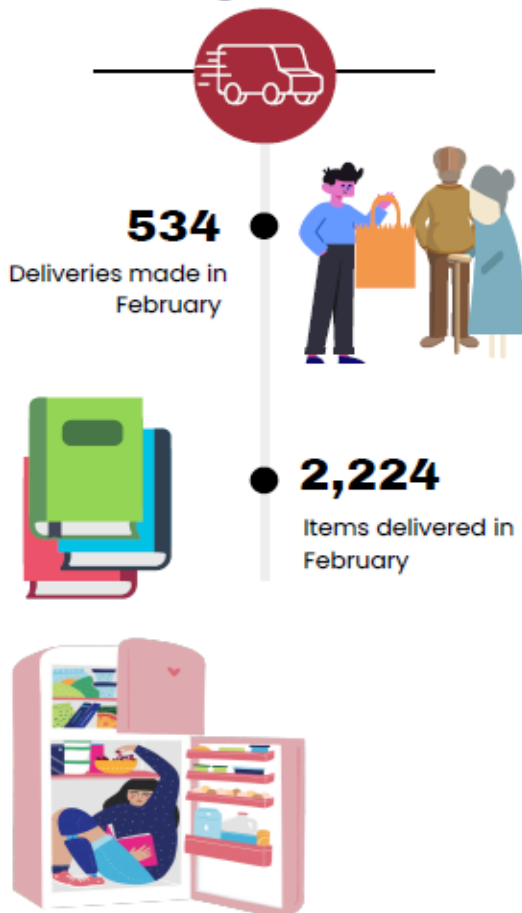
Kilkenny County Council Arts Office partnered with VAI (*Visual Artists Ireland*) to offer a wide range of webinars, clinics and workshops, each exploring a specific purpose aimed at visual artists throughout County Kilkenny.



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## LIBRARY

### Door to Door Library Service



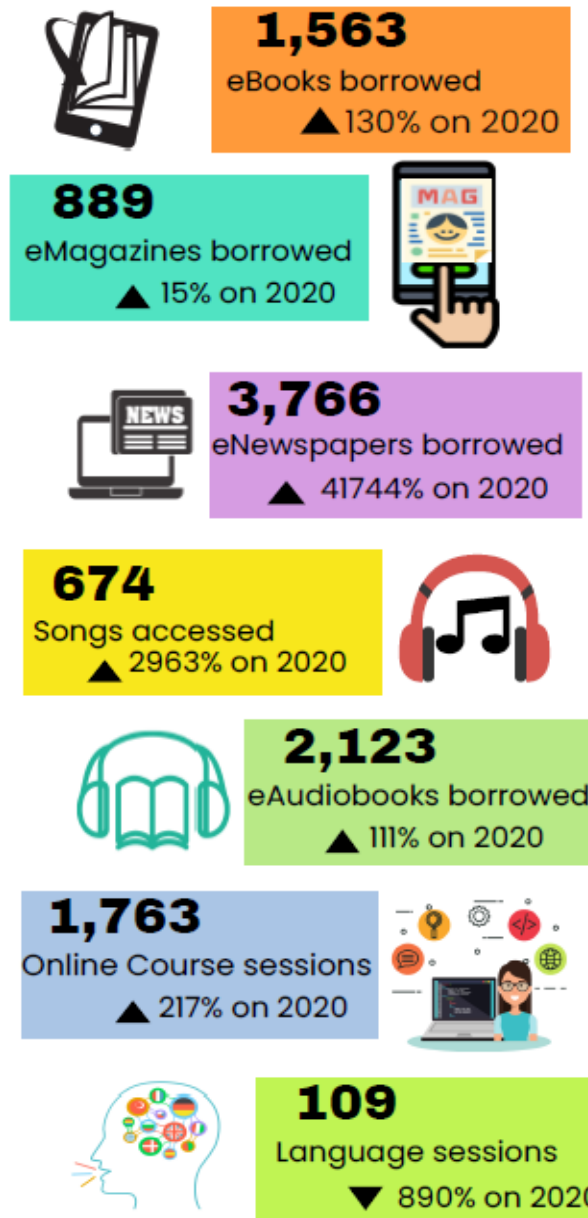
### Ireland Reads

Ireland Reads is a national campaign that continued throughout the month of February, encouraging everyone to "Squeeze in a read" in the lead up to a national day of reading on February 25th. People across Ireland pledged to read for over **930,000** minutes.

Irelandreads.ie website is still available for readers looking for recommendations based on time available to read, interests and reading level. Our staff were involved in helping select some of the 800 recommendations for children and adults.

\* New online memberships & their use of online services is not reflected in these figures

### Online Services use:





# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MARTA - MARCH 2021

## Keep Well Campaign: Ireland Reads

To support people to continue reading beyond our National Day of reading on 25th February, we launched our Keep Well Ireland Reads Adult Series of talks, which started with award winning author, Liz Nugent. We are delighted to be bringing Rick O'Shea, Donal Ryan and Una Mannon virtually to our Kilkenny readers over the coming month. Our Children's Workshops also began with Author and Illustrator, Alan Nolan. This series continues with illustration, creative writing and storytelling with Alan, Nicola Pierce and Liz Weir.



## Keep Well: Rewarding Reads

Pathways to Creative Writing with Susie Lamb and A Time To Write Poetry with Janis Woodgate have begun, with 8 participants per course.



## Healthy Ireland at your Library Series

Our Healthy Ireland at your library series began with a talk on Raising Resilient Children with expert, Dr. Mary O'Kane, lecturer in Psychology, Early Childhood Studies and Education, and regular contributor on Ireland AM.



## Work Matters Series

We collaborated with Kilkenny Carlow ETB to organise a suite of talks to help job seekers and business owners. Talks on using LinkedIn and Interview Skills for Competency based interviews were held in February, and proved extremely popular.



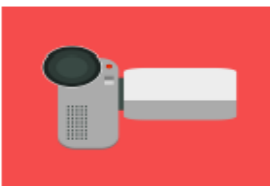
## Age Friendly Libraries Digital Ambassadors Programme

This National initiative was developed in partnership between Age Friendly Ireland and Public libraries and its aim is to support older people in accessing online library resources, Library staff are currently being trained with a view to becoming mentors for older people and delivering one to one remote tutoring sessions online and over the phone. Roll out is expected to commence next month.

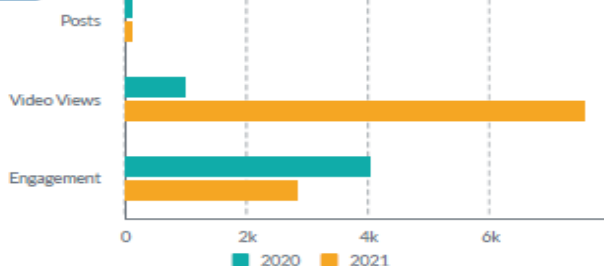


## Digital Engagement

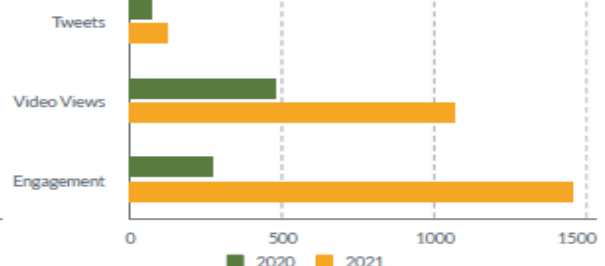
Our staff have prepared, recorded, edited and published **415** posts on our social media platforms in February. Our videos were viewed **10,741** times.



Facebook February 20 v 21



Twitter February 20 v 21





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FINANCE

The expenditure by service division to the end of February is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €11.4m compared with the annual budget of €89.9m.

Table 1	Actual YTD February 2021	Budget Full Year 2021
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	3,439	20,085
Road Transport & Safety	2,300	25,500
Water Services	1,071	7,115
Development Management	1,569	10,679
Environmental Services	1,175	11,748
Recreation & Amenity	883	6,647
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	86	672
Miscellaneous Services	903	7,516
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>11,426</b>	<b>89,962</b>

The bank overdraft facility was not utilised during the first two months of 2021. The temporary closure of a number of construction projects due to Covid 19 level 5 restrictions has had a positive impact on cashflow but this will change once projects are allowed to restart on site.

#### Annual Financial Statements - 2020

The Annual Financial Statements for 2020 are being finalised and will be presented to Council at the April meeting. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage confirmed on March 3<sup>rd</sup> last that compensation is being provided for the loss of income from goods and services and the additional costs incurred due to covid-19 in 2020. The total amount of the compensation payment is €2.29m. This brings the total covid-19 compensation figure to €10.9m for 2020 when the rates waiver compensation is included.

#### Rates - 2021

Rate Demands were issued to all rateable customers on the 11th February, 2021. The total value of rate demand for 2021 is €20,823,489.60. Rates are levied in two moieties and customers can avail of a number of different options to pay their demand. Customers can also avail of the Rates Incentive Grant Scheme and receive a reduction of 3% in their rate demand to a maximum of €250 subject to compliance with terms and conditions of the scheme.





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On the 4<sup>th</sup> of march last the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage advised that the 3 month Commercial Rates Waiver announced for the first quarter of 2021 was being extended for an additional 3 months to the end of June 2021.

In recognition of the impact that Covid-19 is having on businesses, a commercial rates waiver will apply to specified businesses in the first six months of 2021. This six-month waiver has modified criteria and accordingly is a separate standalone waiver scheme from the scheme that applied in 2020. The six-month waiver will apply to all eligible businesses closed by or badly impacted by Level 5 restrictions. Kilkenny County Council will contact all rate customers in the coming weeks regarding the waiver.

**2017 Rates Revaluation**

Further to the full rates revaluation carried out by the Valuation Office in 2017, 197 customers with a total rate demand value of €4.5m appealed their new valuation to the Valuation Tribunal. To date 181 appeals have been completed. 142 of the 181 appeals have resulted in a decrease in rates. Income lost to date stands at €818,984. If this trend continues the total loss of income may be in excess of €1m once all appeals have been heard by the Tribunal.